



DALTON

Berkshire County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The residents of Dalton firmly believe that their community is quite simply the best community in Massachusetts in which to live and raise a family. Nestled in the incomparable beauty of the Berkshires, Dalton has an array of cultural and natural attractions. The town is home to two world-class papermakers, the Crane and Byron Weston companies, but cherishes its small town atmosphere. Dotted with schools, churches and athletic fields, Dalton is focused on family life. Its seven thousand residents are friendly and prosperous. The Appalachian Trail, which runs through the town, brings in hikers to enjoy the community from spring until the snow flies.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Western Massachusetts, bordered by Cheshire on the north and northwest, Windsor and Hinsdale on the east, Washington on the south, and Pittsfield and Lanesborough on the west. Dalton is 50 miles northwest of Springfield; 130 miles northwest of Boston; 42 miles from Albany, New York; and 152 miles from New York City.

Total Area: 21.85 sq. miles

Land Area: 21.81 sq. miles

Population: 7,155

Density: 328 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Great Barrington Station)

Normal temperature in January.....20.1°F

Normal temperature in July.....68.1°F

Normal annual precipitation.....44.8"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Pittsfield East, Cheshire, Windsor, Peru

Regional Planning Agency

Berkshire County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)

Pittsfield



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 684-6111

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1784

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	4,021		
Democrats	1,124	28.0	%
Republicans	625	15.5	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	2,272	56.5	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Dalton town, Berkshire County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	6,892	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	6,892	100.0
Male.....	3,293	47.8	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	70	1.0
Female.....	3,599	52.2	Mexican.....	9	0.1
Under 5 years.....	388	5.6	Puerto Rican.....	20	0.3
5 to 9 years.....	476	6.9	Cuban.....	7	0.1
10 to 14 years.....	565	8.2	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	34	0.5
15 to 19 years.....	510	7.4	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	6,822	99.0
20 to 24 years.....	254	3.7	White alone.....	6,704	97.3
25 to 34 years.....	676	9.8	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	1,131	16.4	Total population.....	6,892	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	1,104	16.0	In households.....	6,780	98.4
55 to 59 years.....	360	5.2	Householder.....	2,712	39.3
60 to 64 years.....	276	4.0	Spouse.....	1,479	21.5
65 to 74 years.....	566	8.2	Child.....	2,150	31.2
75 to 84 years.....	438	6.4	Own child under 18 years.....	1,678	24.3
85 years and over.....	148	2.1	Other relatives.....	170	2.5
Median age (years).....	40.1	(X)	Under 18 years.....	64	0.9
18 years and over.....	5,116	74.2	Nonrelatives.....	269	3.9
Male.....	2,358	34.2	Unmarried partner.....	144	2.1
Female.....	2,758	40.0	In group quarters.....	112	1.6
21 years and over.....	4,900	71.1	Institutionalized population.....	112	1.6
62 years and over.....	1,322	19.2	Noninstitutionalized population.....	-	-
65 years and over.....	1,152	16.7	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	443	6.4	Total households.....	2,712	100.0
Female.....	709	10.3	Family households (families).....	1,859	68.5
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	874	32.2
One race.....	6,861	99.6	Married-couple family.....	1,479	54.5
White.....	6,739	97.8	With own children under 18 years.....	646	23.8
Black or African American.....	35	0.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	295	10.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	8	0.1	With own children under 18 years.....	173	6.4
Asian.....	49	0.7	Nonfamily households.....	853	31.5
Asian Indian.....	18	0.3	Householder living alone.....	730	26.9
Chinese.....	6	0.1	Householder 65 years and over.....	340	12.5
Filipino.....	1	-	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	927	34.2
Japanese.....	1	-	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	782	28.8
Korean.....	6	0.1	Average household size.....	2.50	(X)
Vietnamese.....	10	0.1	Average family size.....	3.04	(X)
Other Asian ¹	7	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	2,832	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	2,712	95.8
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	120	4.2
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	1	-
Some other race.....	30	0.4	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	0.7	(X)
Two or more races.....	31	0.4	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	3.5	(X)
<i>Race alone or in combination with one</i>			HOUSING TENURE		
<i>or more other races:³</i>			Occupied housing units.....	2,712	100.0
White.....	6,770	98.2	Owner-occupied housing units.....	2,018	74.4
Black or African American.....	42	0.6	Renter-occupied housing units.....	694	25.6
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	24	0.3	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.69	(X)
Asian.....	53	0.8	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	1.94	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	37	0.5			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 78

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP): 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

Dalton is situated in Berkshire County, a region of hills and low mountains that widen to create the Berkshire Valley in the south. The major cities and towns are linked together by U.S. Route 7. North Adams and Pittsfield are major points of entry for rail freight into Massachusetts, and the region has several commercial airports. Public roads and highways meet the requirements of modern transportation.

Major Highways

Principal highways are State Route 8 running N-S through the Berkshires and the cross-state Worcester Turnpike (State Route 9).

Rail

Conrail provides freight service to Dalton. Contact number: (617) 783-6222.

Bus

Dalton is a member of the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA), which provides fixed route service to Hinsdale and Pittsfield. User side paratransit services are available for the elderly and disabled.

Other

The Pittsfield Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility located in neighboring Pittsfield, has 2 asphalt runways 3,496' and 5,000' long. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision. Scheduled passenger service is available in Albany, New York, and at Bradley Field in Connecticut (both approx. an hour from Pittsfield).



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

Crane Museum

Housatonic Street

(413) 684-2600

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

Dalton Nursing Home, Inc.

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

Curtis Manor Retirement Home

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.